

I-81 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT STUDY

Scoping Meeting

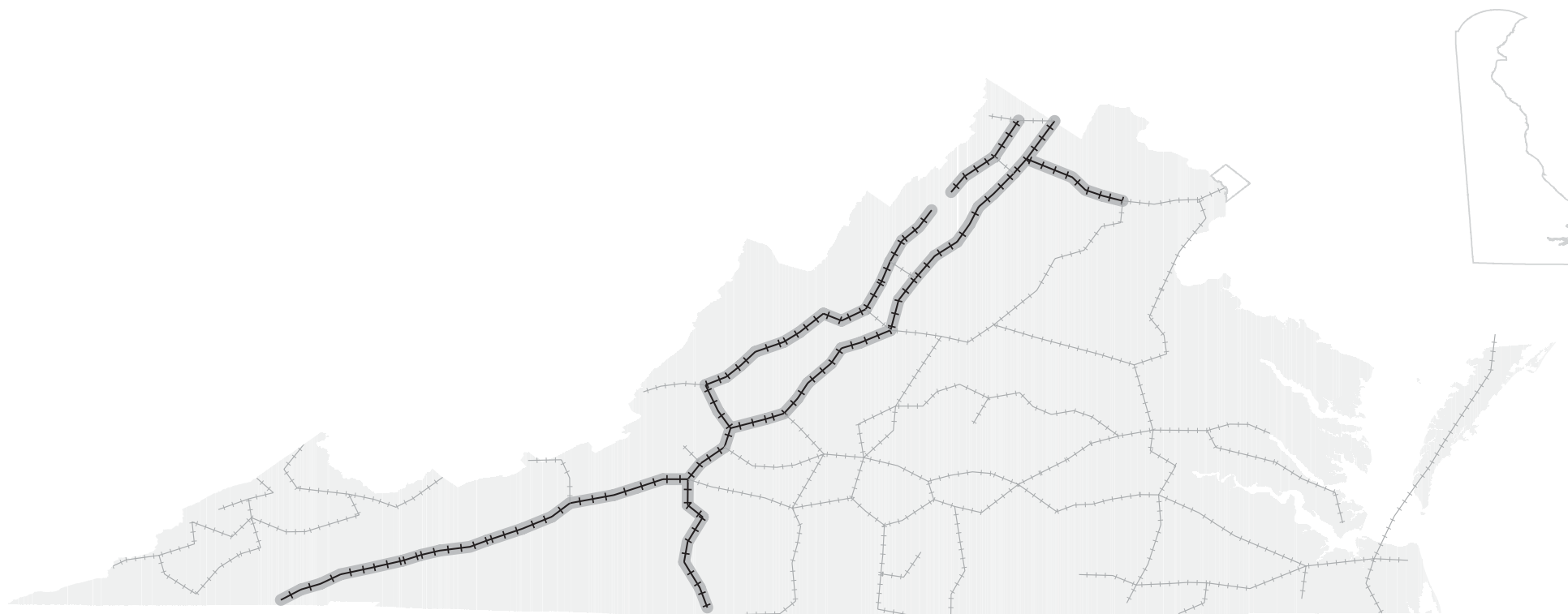
February 2004

I-81





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What is the purpose of this study?

- Identify corridor deficiencies
- Develop potential solutions to address corridor needs
- Evaluate impacts of potential solutions
- Explore possibilities of diverting freight to rail
- Explore the feasibility of tolls
- Provide information to the Commonwealth Transportation Board and Federal Highway Administration to make informed decisions
- Comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)





Relationship Between Public/Private Transportation Act (PPTA) and the I-81 Corridor Improvement Study

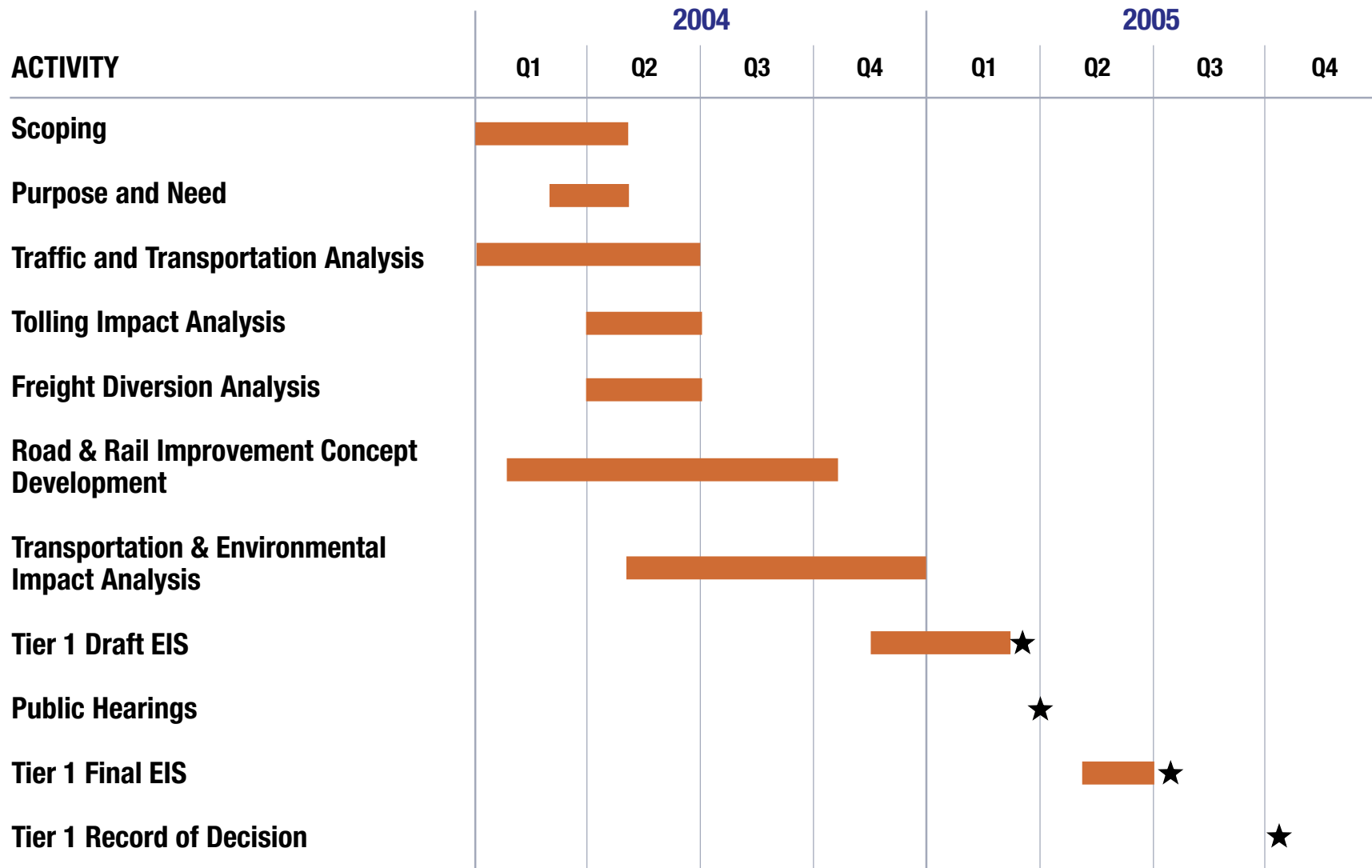
- Two PPTA proposals for improving I-81 (STAR and Fluor).
- NEPA clearance required before PPTA proposals can be implemented.
- I-81 Corridor Improvement Study, which includes NEPA, conducted independently of PPTA proposals.





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Study Schedule



Q=Yearly Quarter



Tiered NEPA Process: Relationship between Tier 1 and Tier 2

Tier 1

- Corridor-wide purpose and need
- Development of general solutions
- Impacts based on readily available information

Tier 2

- Approval of conceptual design features identified in Tier 1
- Authority to use federal funds on final design
- Authority to acquire Right-of-Way
- Eligibility for federal funding for construction
- Approval to modify access to I-81



Problem Identification

- Considers transportation needs along the corridor now and in the future
- Fact-based analysis
- Serves as basis for developing solutions
- Serves as basis for determining effectiveness of solutions
- Considers capacity, safety, economic development and other corridor conditions



Potential Solutions

- The study will consider improvement concepts for highway and rail such as:
 - *Additional highway lanes*
 - *Segregation of trucks and passenger vehicles on I-81*
 - *Additional rail capacity*
- Concept development will be based on needs
- Concepts will be developed to the level of detail that:
 - 1) *Is necessary to assess corridor-wide impacts, and that*
 - 2) *Assists in the determination of concept effectiveness*
- Estimated costs will also be considered



Impact Analysis

- Based on coordination with local government, state and federal agencies and the public
- Based on agency data, Geographic Information Systems and limited field reviews
- Appropriate to support decisions



Issues to be Studied

- Historic Properties
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Parks/Recreational Areas
- Agricultural/Forestral Districts
- Social and Economic Considerations
- Aquatic Resources
- Farmland
- Land Use
- Visual Resources
- Air Quality
- Noise





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Public Outreach

- Public Scoping Meetings
- Public Hearings
- Newsletters
- Web Site/E-mail (www.virginiadot.org/projects/constSTAN-I81proj-default)
- Press releases

Contact Information

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